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Agenda item 103

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Tetyana **Pokhval'ona** (Ukraine)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 63/88 of 2 December 2008.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 October 2009, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 86 to 103. The general debate on those items was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 5 to 9 and on 12 October (see A/C.1/64/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 10 meetings, from 13 to 16 and from 19 to 23 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/64/PV.9-18). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 9th to 18th meetings, from 13 to 16 and from 19 to 23 October (see A/C.1/64/PV.9-18). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 23rd meetings, from 27 to 30 October and on 2 November (see A/C.1/64/PV.19-23).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.15

5. At the 12th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/64/L.15).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 28 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.15.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.15 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and sixty-three States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[3] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the decision reached at the Sixth Review Conference to hold four annual meetings of the States parties of one week's duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, which is to be held no later than the end of 2011, and to hold a one-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,[4]

1. *Notes* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.
[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.
[3] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.
[4] BWC/CONF.VI/6, part III, para. 7.

information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[2]

3. *Also welcomes* the successful holding of meetings as part of the 2007-2010 intersessional process, and in this context also welcomes the discussion aimed at the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed at the Sixth Review Conference,[5] and urges States parties to continue to participate actively in the remaining intersessional process;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Sixth Review Conference agreed on several measures to update the mechanism for the transmission of information within the framework of the confidence-building measures;

5. *Recalls* the decisions reached at the Sixth Review Conference,[6] and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate in their implementation;

6. *Urges* States parties to continue to work closely with the Implementation Support Unit of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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[5] BWC/CONF.VI/6.

[6] Ibid., part III, paras. 1 and 7.